Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A method for determining the degree of interest for a plurality of still digital images, comprising ~~the steps of~~:

a) sequentially displaying on an electronic display the plurality of still digital images for viewing by a user;

b) electronically monitoring the duration of the viewing time for each of the plurality of still digital images, wherein the duration of the viewing time is determined by the user;

c) using the electronically monitored viewing time duration to determine the degree of interest for the plurality of still digital images; and

d) storing electronic information indicating the degree of interest as image metadata associated with at least one image of the plurality of still digital images.

2. (Canceled).

3. (Canceled).

4. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1 wherein the degree of interest is determined by relating the viewing time duration for the at least one still digital image with the average viewing time duration for the plurality of still digital images.

5. (Original) The method of claim 1 further including the step of monitoring the facial expression of the user.

6. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 5 wherein the smile size of the user is determined for each of the plurality of still digital images.

7. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 6 wherein a degree of preference is determined for each of the plurality of still digital images

by relating the smile size corresponding to each still digital image to an average smile size.

8. (Canceled).

9. (Currently Amended) A method for providing image metadata for images in an imaging system, comprising ~~the steps of~~:

a) sequentially displaying on an electronic display a plurality of still digital images for viewing by a user;

b) electronically monitoring the time intervals during which the user views each of the plurality of still digital images on the electronic display, wherein the time intervals are determined by the user;

c) using the time intervals to determine the degree of interest for at least one of the plurality of still digital images;

d) storing image metadata in a personal affective tag indicating the degree of interest for the at least one of the plurality of still digital images.

10. (Canceled).

11. (Withdrawn) A system for providing affective information for images in an imaging system, comprising:

a) a digital memory which stores a set of digital images;

b) a display which sequentially displays the set of digital images for viewing by a user; and

c) a processor for monitoring the time that the user views each of the plurality of digital images and for providing affective information for at least one of the digital images.

12. (Withdrawn) The system of claim 11 wherein the affective information is stored in a personal affective tag.

13. (Withdrawn) The system of claim 11 wherein the processor determines a normalized viewing time by relating the viewing time for

the at least one of the digital images to the average viewing time for the plurality of digital images.

14. (Withdrawn) The system of claim 11 further including a camera which monitors the facial expression of the user.

15. (Withdrawn) The system of claim 14 wherein the processor also processes at least one image from the camera to determine the smile size of the user.

16. (Withdrawn) The system of claim 11 wherein the system further includes a sensor for measuring the user's physiology.

17. (Withdrawn) The system of claim 16 wherein the sensor measures the user's galvanic skin response.

18. (Withdrawn) The system of claim 11 wherein the affective information is stored in the digital memory.

19. (Withdrawn) The system of claim 11 wherein the affective information is stored in a digital image file.

20. (Withdrawn) The system of claim 19 wherein the digital image file includes affective information and user identifiers for a plurality of users.